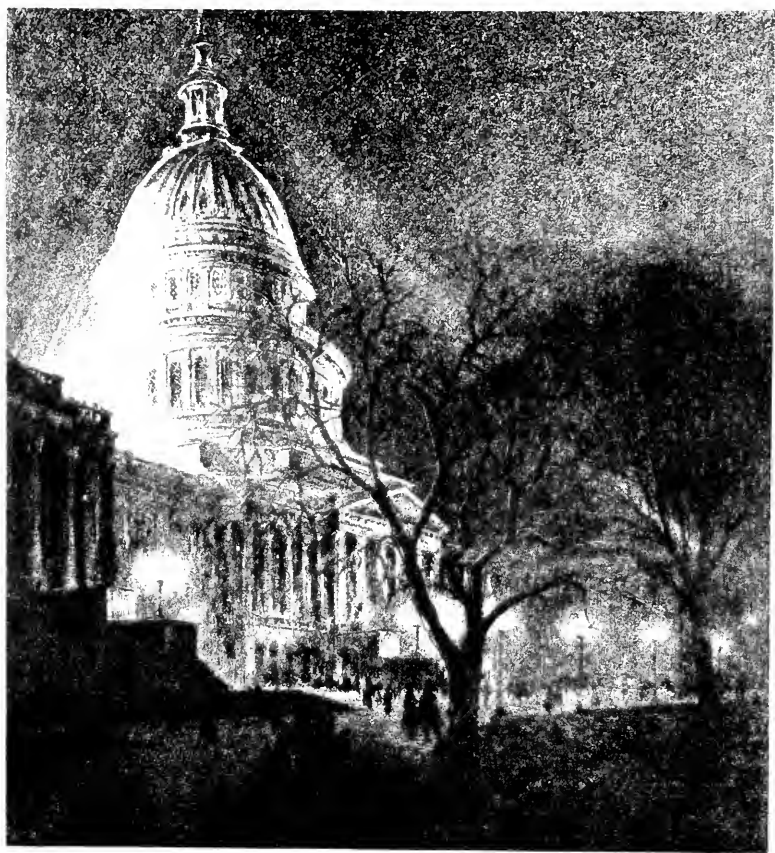


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WASHINGTON
THE NATION'S CAPITAL



THE NATION'S CAPITAL

TWENTY-FIVE DRAWINGS

BY

HERBERT PULLINGER

NEW YORK

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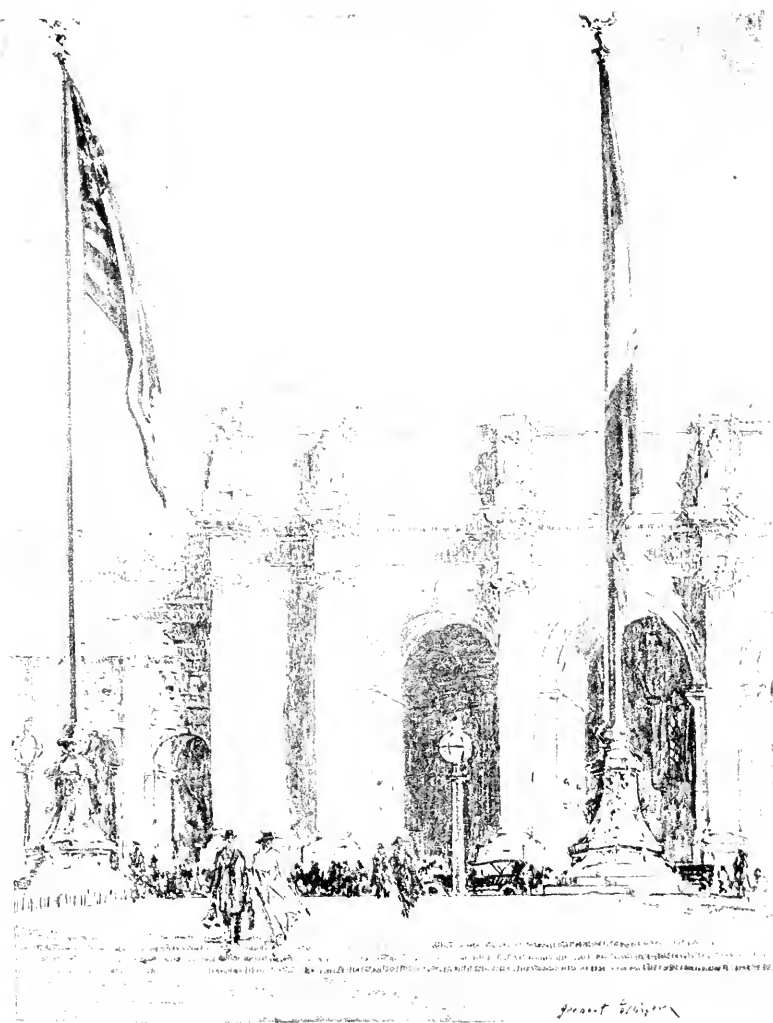
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WASHINGTON
THE NATION'S CAPITAL

I

THE UNION STATION

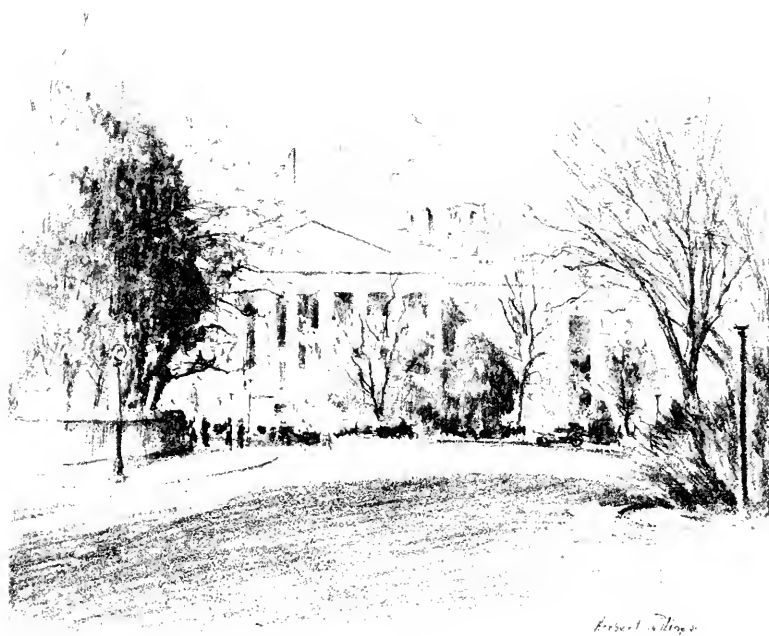
THIS great terminus, ample in portion and dignity, with its beautiful façade, the largeness of its approach with its great bronze flagstaffs standing guard and all sweeping gracefully into the wide tree-lined avenue, with the dome of the Capitol dominating the distance, gives the visitor not only a feeling of generous welcome, but that feeling of pleasure one usually experiences upon seeing a thing function properly.



II

THE TREASURY BUILDING

PERHAPS one gets the best view of the Treasury Building from the south on the edge of the Mall, where the great sweep of the wide roadway, flanked on either side with wonderful trees, for which Washington is famous, leads one gracefully toward it. On the west are the White House grounds, while on the east one gets a glimpse of the taller buildings of the city. Architecturally it is an imposing building, with its great flight of broad steps, leading up to the columned portico.



III

NORTH ON FIFTEENTH STREET

ONE never thinks of Washington as a city of skyscrapers, and indeed it is not, but here and there groups of tall buildings may be found which give it an aspect much like any other American city, except that always a certain feeling of calm dignity pervades the atmosphere. Perhaps it is the wide, unobstructed streets, always lined with well-kept, healthy trees or perhaps it is just Washington.

Along about five o'clock in the evening the great government buildings pour forth a stream of humanity, a sober, well-dressed kind of a crowd, a crowd which doesn't seem to act like any other crowd on its way home. Perhaps this, too, is just Washington.



IV

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BUILDING

ERECTED as a Memorial to the Heroic Women of the American Civil War, the Red Cross Building is one of the group of handsome buildings flanking the western side of the Mall, and which is, perhaps, the most notable group in the Capitol, the unity of which goes far toward a unified design for the whole city. Its gleaming white front, seen through the trees, is indeed a shining memorial to the patriotism of the nation's womanhood.

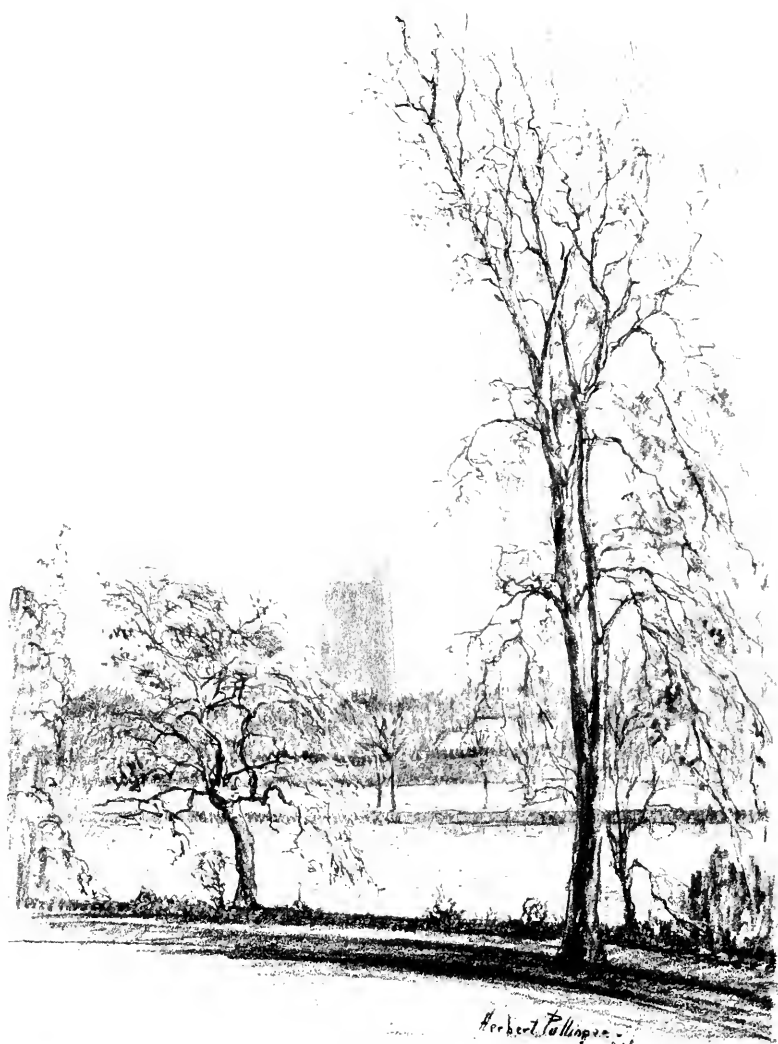


V

THE MONUMENT

ALWAYS one sees the great Monument looming majestically skyward as if to proclaim to the world the simple dignity and lofty principles of him for whom it stands,—in the early morning a golden shaft rising out of the misty earth; in the evening more like a flaming sword raised by the hand of justice. The slanting rain drives furiously past its huge bulk standing so solidly. I have never seen it in the snow, but can easily imagine it towering into the mysterious and whirling white. One feels no great effort in its creation: it just seems to have grown there, easily and naturally, like a great rock, and one gets the impression of its always having been there.

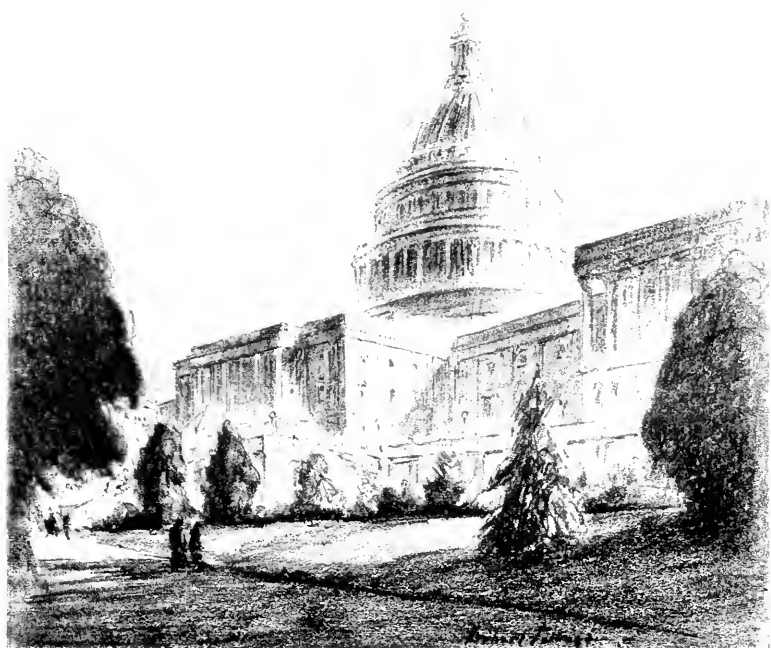
At night it looms dark and foreboding against the sky.



VI

THE CAPITOL FROM THE SOUTHWEST

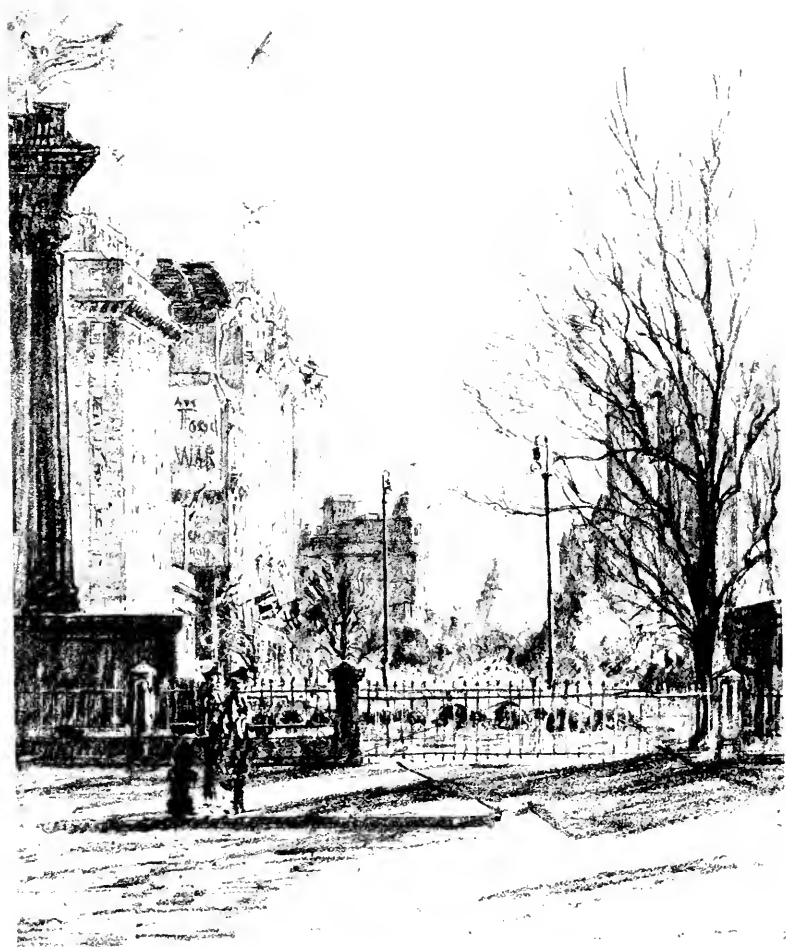
IT was originally intended, I think, that the Western Front of the Capitol should be the Main Front, but things worked out the other way. The Eastern Front is fine and dignified, but the Western Front, while equally fine, is perhaps a little less dignified. The great sweep of the steps leading up to the terraces and fountains and thence up to the main platform, the gentle slope of the well-cropped lawns, the trees and shrubbery, and the squirrels all go to make it a little more intimate. One stands a bit in awe of the Main Front, but not so from the west.



VII

THE AVENUE

LOOKING down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House grounds at Sixteenth Street, across the steps of the Treasury Building, the scene sparkles and vibrates with activity. The broad expanse of street teems with scurrying motors, moving cars and little black spots of people hustling to and fro. The great dome of the Capitol in the distance seems to be the end of things and one has a feeling that here, between the White House and the Capitol, is indeed the Hub of the Nation. It is here, too, that the great inaugural parades march while great throngs of on-lookers pack the short distance.



VIII

ACROSS LAFAYETTE SQUARE

LOOMING over the tops of the beautiful trees of Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, one gets a glimpse of the tall buildings to the north. The old square, with its statues of Jackson, Lafayette, Rochambeau and others, is dear to the hearts of Washingtonians and teems with historical associations.

Grouped around the square are many interesting old buildings. The diminutive St. John's Church, where many of the Presidents of the United States have worshipped, nestles under the lee of the newer tall buildings. The Cosmos Club, formerly the home of Dolly Madison, and numerous other buildings of historic interest surround this lovely old square.

The view across the square seems to embody a great deal of that which is Washington, perhaps dignity and breadth.



Herbert Palmer

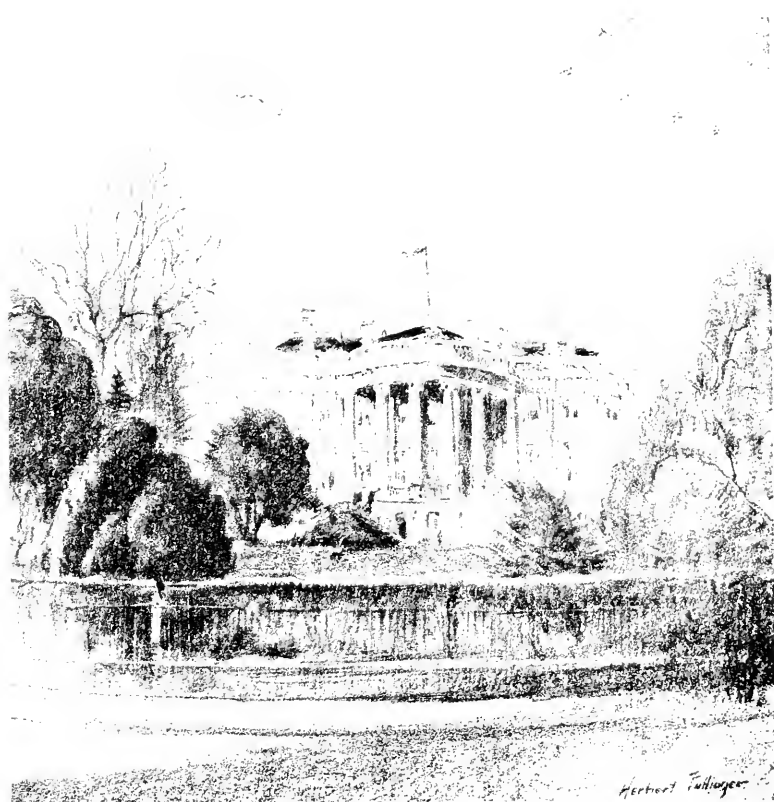
IX

THE WHITE HOUSE — SOUTH FRONT

PERHAPS there is nothing in Washington quite so lovely as the South Front of the Executive Mansion, especially with the sun on it in the late afternoon. Originally planned as the Main Front it stands out brilliantly against its beautiful setting of varied greens. Sheep graze peacefully on its well-cropped lawns.

The White House was the first building erected by the United States at the new Capitol, its site being selected and its corner-stone having been laid by Washington himself.

It is a beautiful example of Georgian architecture and was first occupied in 1800 by John Adams. It is on the gentle slopes below the portico of the South front, amid the dignified setting of old trees, that the thousands of children gather on Easter Monday for the traditional egg rolling.



X

THE WEST FRONT OF THE CAPITOL

UP the long inclined walk and rising by low steps and easy stages one approaches the Capitol from the West through a leafy archway of trees. Very friendly little gray squirrels scamper to and fro across the path and along the coping. The wide steps leading up to the terrace stretch away into the green. The sun, glistening through the trees on the white front of the building, likens it to some fairy castle with little black figures forever climbing. One hastens to see what is in store for one.



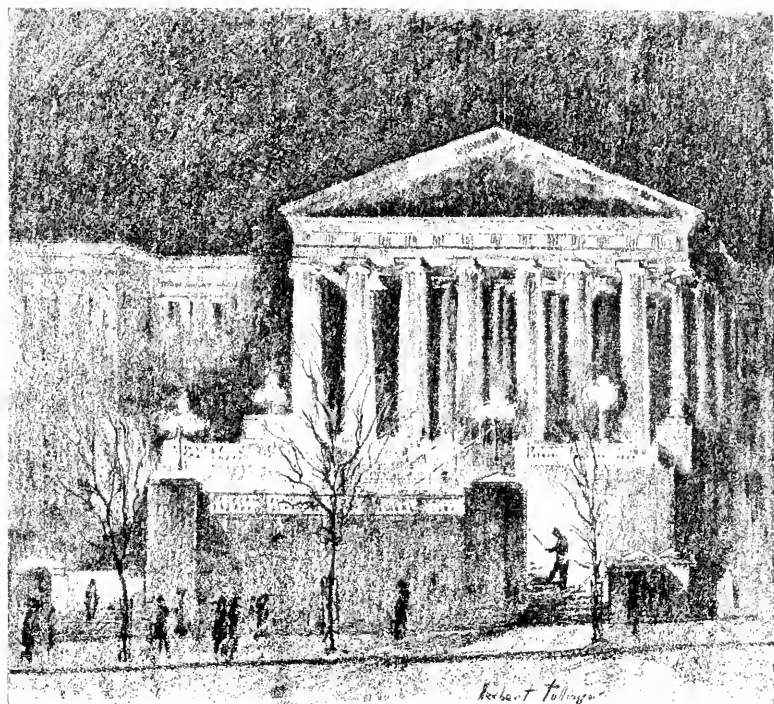
XI

THE PATENT OFFICE

TUCKED away down in a busy old section of the town is located what Washington knows as the Patent Office, though it really is the Interior Department, of which the Patent Office is one of its many branches.

The fine old portico, with its Doric Columns, can be seen from Pennsylvania Avenue at what seems to be the northern end of one of the streets near the Capitol, and suggests something interesting, but few climb the hill to inspect it.

It is here that the great inventions, for which the United States are famous, are recorded. Seen at night, with the lights shining on the row of great pillars, clustered about the entrance, it is picturesque indeed.



XII

THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

THE Pan American Union Building is one of the most beautiful buildings in the Capitol. Designed by Albert Kelsey and Paul Crét, it is a wonderful example of simplicity and dignity.

Flanking the monumental bronze doors is, to the north, the sculptured group representing North America, by Gutzon Borglum, and to the south, the group representing South America, by Isidore Konti.

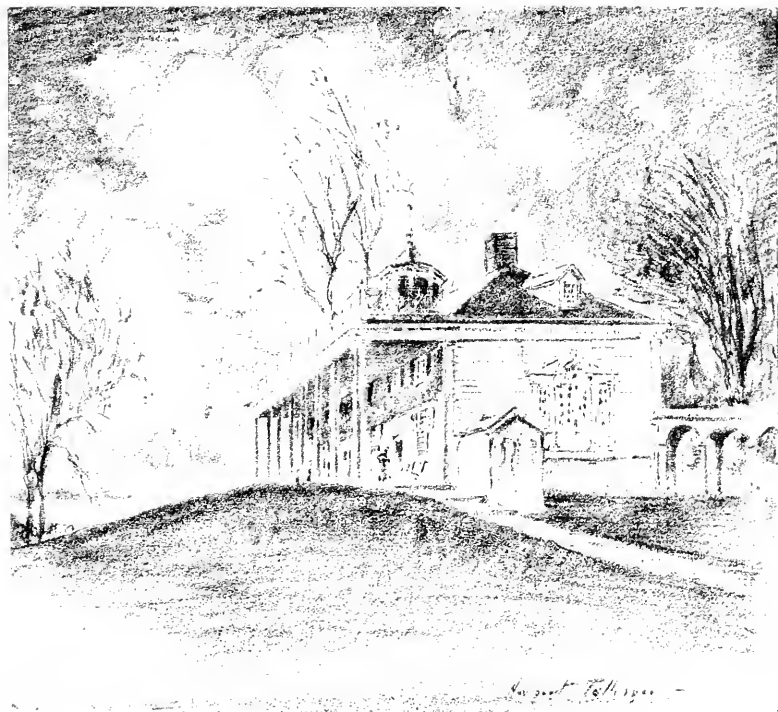
The interior is beautiful indeed; the patio, in the centre of which is a fountain by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, is filled with plants and flora and birds from tropical America. Its roof of glass is thrown open in summer. It is here that the representatives of the twenty-one Republics, which constitute such a large part of the Western Hemisphere, meet to transact their affairs.



XIII

MOUNT VERNON

THE spell of Mt. Vernon comes first, perhaps, from its wonderful location high on the banks of the Potomac, with that beautiful river spreading out below. Then again, the simplicity of the place, the orderly and efficient arrangement of the building and the quiet dignity which permeates the atmosphere, all affects one. One is not particularly attracted by the architecture, but the impressive thing is a certain feeling of Washington himself, as though the spirit of the great man pervaded the place — one feels this great presence everywhere.



See page 16/1/1900 -

XIV

NIGHT

NIGHT in the city to many of us usually means the glare of many electric signs and the hustle of many people, and an oppressive feeling overhead, with never a thought of trees. Night in Washington, however, is a little different. Here the street lights are low and not too bright, and one gets a clear view of the tops of the trees against the sky and a feeling of great space.

Washington streets have the effect of not being too well lighted, due to their width, but one does feel, however, that one is at least out in the night.

There are, however, numerous places here where the bright lights shine and one forgets the night.



XV

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

DESIGNED by Henry Bacon, the Lincoln Memorial, overlooking the Potomac River, is situated at the western end of the great parkway which runs past the White House and stretches eastward to the Capitol with the Washington Monument near the centre, and it is a part of the great central scheme of design for the city.

Inside are three large halls separated by tall columns, the central one being open to the out of doors. In the Central Hall, with his back to the river, sits the huge sculptured figure of Lincoln, by Daniel Chester French, looking, as it were, past the monument towards the Capitol.

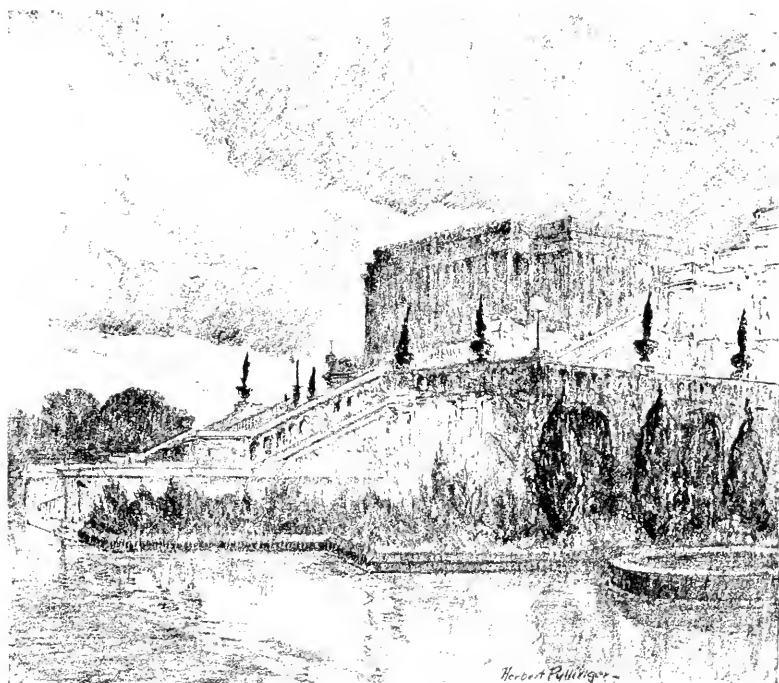
On the walls of the two smaller halls are the stunning murals by Jules Guerin and beneath these cut in the walls is the great emancipator's second inaugural address and his Gettysburg speech. The Lincoln Memorial is indeed an inspiring monument to the great martyred President.



XVI

THE NORTH WING OF THE CAPITOL

FROM the terrace below, the north wing of the Capitol, especially toward evening, takes on the look of some Classic Greek Temple, its marked outline standing out against the sky. The wings were added to the building somewhat later, they having been finished along about 1867, and are now occupied by the Congress, the Senate sitting in the northern wing.



XVII
THE OLD AND THE NEW

HERE and there in this wonderful city one finds, as in other cities, old houses nestling close to the more modern tall ones. Quaint iron-balconied places with high brick walls enclose charming old gardens. The difference, however, between these and those of other cities is that here they seem to have been treated more kindly. Perhaps someone of importance in the history of the country may once have lived here or perhaps some distinguished foreigners may have lived here temporarily. One has a feeling that many carriages must have stopped here.

These old places seem strangely to belong to the town, so carefully they seem to be interwoven, and so well, with the more modern buildings which surround them.



XVIII

THE SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE

DESIGNED by John Alvin Pope, the Scottish Rite Temple is said to have been modelled after the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, located on the shores of Asia Minor, and which was considered by the ancients to be one of the seven wonders of the world. This beautiful building is the home of the Southern jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of America.



XIX

THE CAPITOL FROM THE EAST

THE guards will tell you that it took so many years to build and that it cost so much money. They will tell you the number of cubic yards of stone and marble used in its construction, the weight of the dome and numerous other important things: but what is all this? — The fact remains, and it does mean something, that one comes back to the East Front again and again with satisfaction, that its dignity is inspiring and that the great building seems symbolical of the nation's strength.

It is something, too, to know that Washington himself laid the corner-stone and that out here before the East Front, surrounded by a representative assemblage of the Government, the people and representatives of the other Governments of the Earth, many of the Nation's Presidents have taken the solemn oath of their office.

It is something, too, just to stand and look at it, something more than listening to the guard.



Robert L. Maynard 18

XX

CHRIST CHURCH—ALEXANDRIA, VA.

IN the sunny little town of Alexandria, not far from Washington, and surrounded by a quiet burial ground and big shade trees, stands the old historic Christ Church.

Broad, tree-lined streets, lined with quaint old colonial houses lie around it and a tranquil air pervades the place.

The Church is said to have been finished about 1773.

George Washington bought one of the first ten pews offered for sale, and number Five is still known as the Washington Pew. Many other prominent names are said to have been connected with the Church.



Herbert Tollinger
1920

XXI

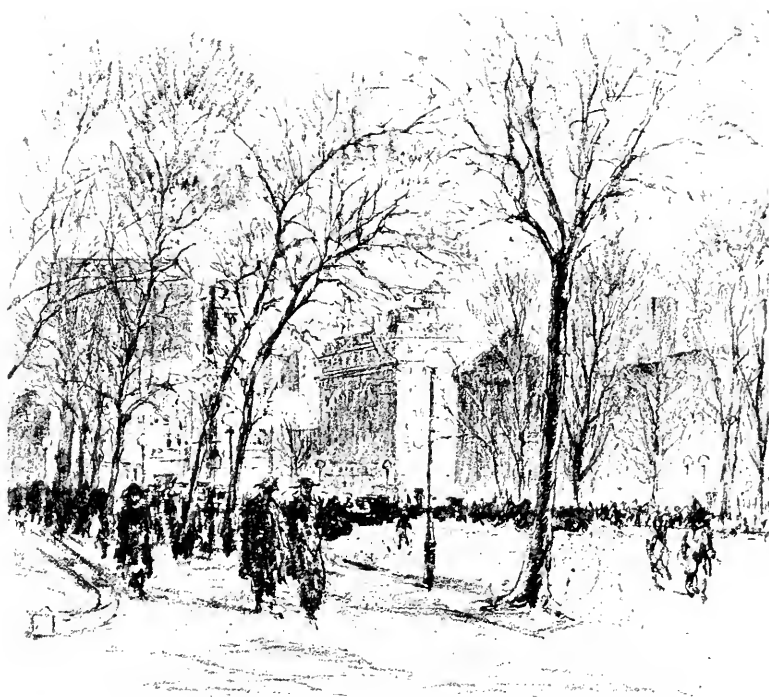
THE HEART OF THE CITY

TO the visitor the aspect of Washington is more like that of a foreign city than an American one, despite the fact that here and there one does get a glimpse of a few tall buildings clustered together in a businesslike way.

One is impressed with the breadth of its streets, all so beautifully lined with various species of well-cared-for trees. It is odd, indeed, to walk along these streets of a windy night late in the Fall and have literally to wade through fallen and whirling leaves.

Nor is there a forest of ugly poles and wires and glaring electric lights to obstruct one's view of the sky, and the absence of bill boards is astonishing. Short slender iron posts crowned by a single ground glass globe containing a mellow light run for miles along the Avenues. Everywhere the streets open vistas; everywhere there seems to be breadth and dignity; a wonderful setting for the low massive buildings.

Rightly the Nation's Capitol should set the pace and truly Washington is a city to be proud of.



XXII

HOTELS

IN the early days of Washington most of the popular hotels were located along the Avenue, down near the Capitol and the Railway Station. These great unlovely places, many of them still standing, were the centre of the life of the Capitol. Here many representatives of the Government and other prominent people stayed.

Perhaps the old Arlington, on Lafayette Square, now torn down, was the most famous. It was here that King George of England and many other notable visitors were entertained. To-day, however, many beautiful modern hostelries are to be found all over the town.



XXIII

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TO the stranger, the Congressional Library is perhaps the most interesting building in Washington, and one of the first to be visited. Its beautiful façade, in the Italian Renaissance, the bronze fountain and doors give but little hint of the wealth of color and beauty inside. The marbles and tilings, the paintings, sculpture and carvings, and that riot of color contrasted against the cool marble, amply repay the visitor. Here some of the best names in American Art are to be found. And not only is the physical interior interesting, but its wonderful collection of books and prints.

It is here that the publisher, author and the artist must send examples of their work to be copyrighted, which fact in itself would insure for the library a wonderful collection of American works.



Robert Pelletier - 1900

XXIV
FIFTEENTH STREET AND NEW YORK
AVENUE

HERE is perhaps the busiest corner in Washington. All day long the people pass to and fro, machines slip quietly by and the trolley cars seem to be forever turning, but never with that degree of hurry which characterizes other American cities. Always the wide streets and low massive buildings, the trees and the sky, and always that feeling of repose, of quiet dignity and good breeding.

There being no industry here the immigrant is not attracted, thus the people seem to be more distinctly American.



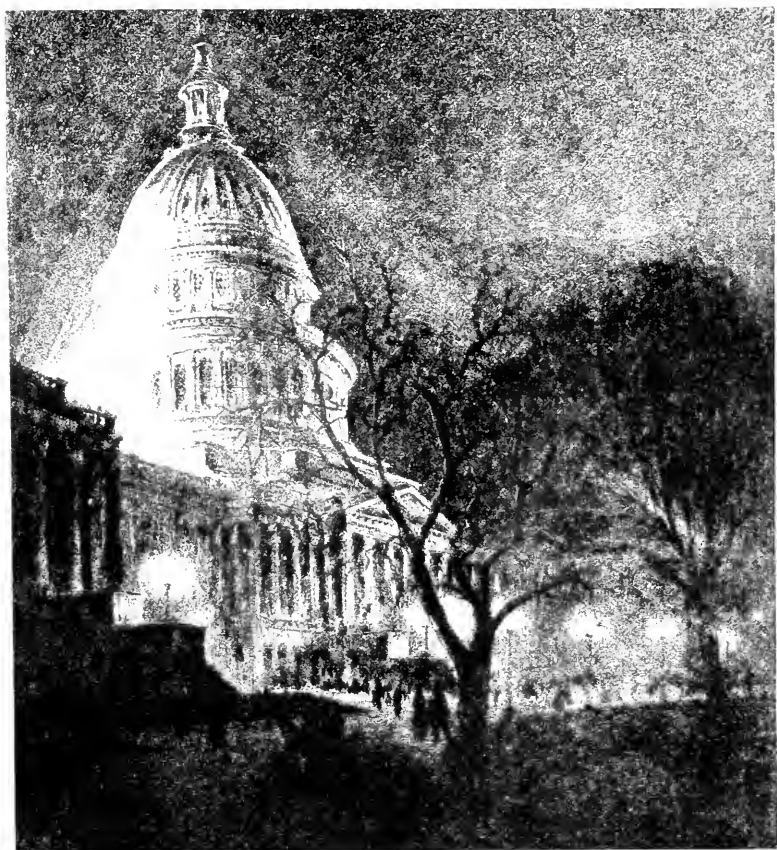
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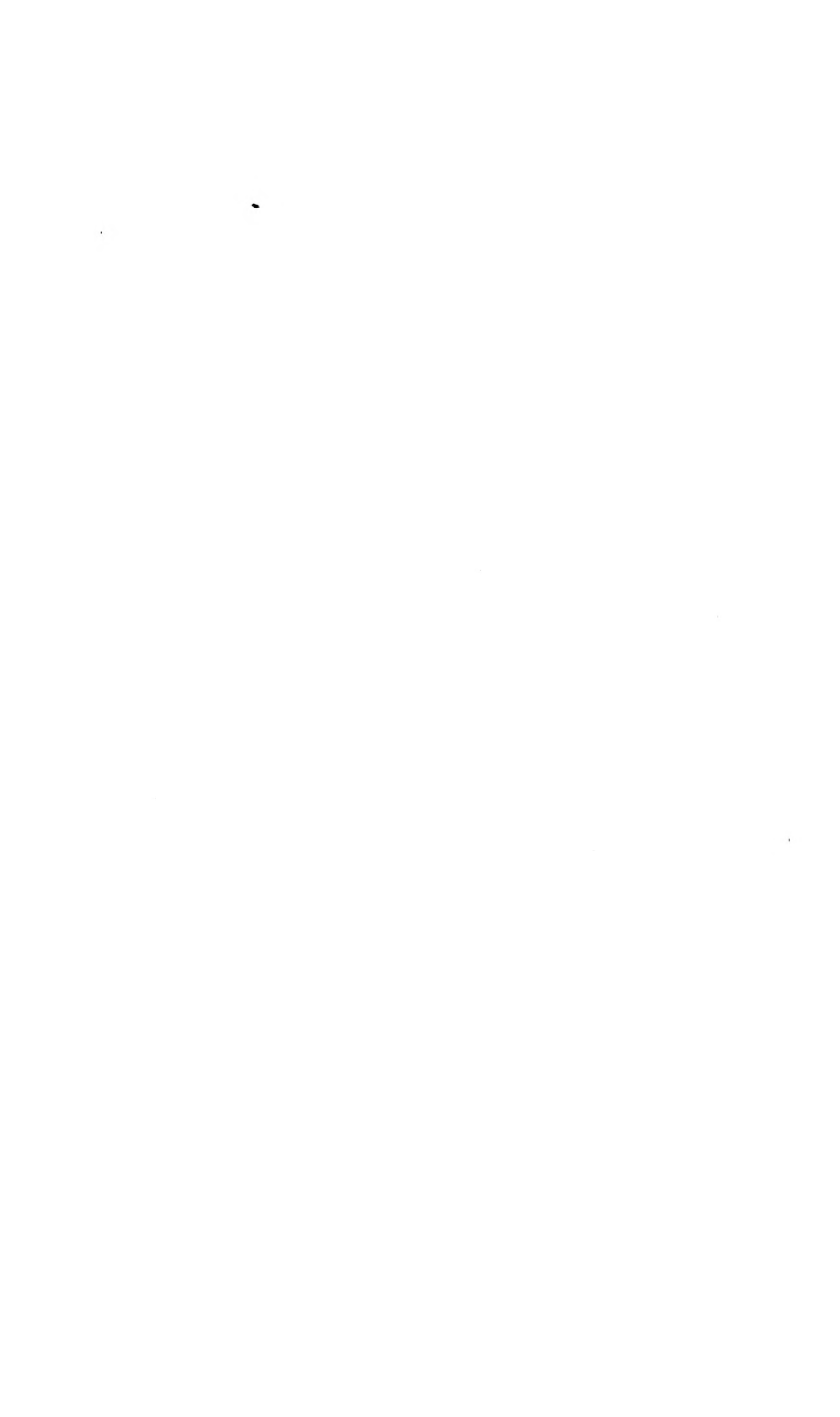
THE CAPITOL AT NIGHT

A GAINST the lighter sky the huge dome looms mysteriously in the night, its dark mass seeming to signify the strength of its foundations — this great nation's capitol building.

Now, at the turning of a switch, the great dome is flooded with a warm, mellow light, its architectural detail standing out prominently against the black sky, — one laughs aloud at the joy of it.

The people on the plaza below become dwarfed into mere black spots against the brilliant spectacle. In fact, one feels a bit insignificant otherwise before this wondrous column of towering light.





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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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